

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-7 and 11-18 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits. Non-elected claims 8-9 have been canceled. Claims 1-7 and 11-17 have been amended and claim 18 added.

The instant amendment made herein to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, the amendment to claim 1 finds support at page 2, lines 25-36 of the specification. Also, new claim 18 is supported by original claim 1 and pending claim 11.

Accordingly, proper consideration of each of the pending claims is respectfully requested at present, as is entry of the present amendment.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 1-7 and 11-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over “the admitted prior art” in view of Takuman EP ’211 (EP 1 225 211 A2) and Simizu US ’140 (US 4,216,140).

Applicants traverse this rejection, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Distinctions over the Cited References

None of Simizu US ’140, Takuman EP ’211 or the “admitted prior art” disclose or teach the feature of the present invention (i.e., the incorporation of Al(OH)₃ into a hydrosilylation addition curable composition). The composition employed in the method of the present

invention is suited for a sealer to be applied to the peripheral portions of the base fabric pieces prior to bonding or stitching and develops good adherence to the base fabric pieces.

According to the present invention, an improved bond between the peripheral portions of the fabric pieces can be attained by the use of aluminum hydroxide even if calcium carbonate is not employed. This advantageous result is proved by the Examples described in the present specification (see pages 12-16 of the instant specification).

On the other hand, calcium carbonate is employed as an essential component in Takuman EP '211. For example, Takuman EP '211 discloses, as follows:

"[0020] The following optional components may also be added to the adhesive of the present invention: fumed titanium oxide, carbon black, diatomaceous earth, iron oxide, aluminium oxide, aluminosilicates, calcium carbonate, zinc oxide, aluminium hydroxide, silver, nickel, and other inorganic fillers, as well as fillers obtained by treating the surfaces of these fillers with the aforementioned organosilicon compounds." (Emphasis added)

Therefore, Takuman EP '211 suggests that calcium carbonate must be contained in the composition rather than that aluminum hydroxide powder is an alternative to calcium carbonate powder for an adhesive used to bond silicone rubber. While aluminum hydroxide may be blended, the composition necessarily contains calcium carbonate as much as 5 to 200 parts by weight in combination in Takuman EP '211. In short, the composition of Takuman EP '211 attains the adherence by employing calcium carbonate as an essential component.

In this regard, claim 11 recites further clearly this feature of the present invention (i.e., "an inorganic filler in the addition reaction curing type silicone rubber composition consists

essentially of the aluminum hydroxide powder"). Takuman EP '211 also fails to disclose or suggest this limitation of the present invention, as recited in claim 11.

At any event, Takuman EP '211 fails to disclose or suggest that the use of aluminum hydroxide will improve adherence between a first silicone rubber which is obtained by curing an air bag sealer silicone rubber composition and a second silicone rubber with which base fabric pieces are impregnated and/or covered.

Further, the purpose of the Simizu US '140 invention is to provide a self-extinguishing room temperature vulcanizable polyorganosiloxane composition (see column 1, lines 7-9 of Simizu US '140). For example, in the working Examples of Simizu US '140, the significant difference between Example d and Comparative Example c is concerned with the self-extinguishing property (see Table 2 of column 7 of Simizu US '140). Based on this data, it is understood that Simizu US '140 merely explains that the finely divided powder of aluminum hydroxide is the essential component for imparting self-extinguishing property by combining it with a silanol-terminated polydiorganosiloxane having phenyl groups (A) and platinum or platinum compound (D), but such a description is not relevant to the method of improving adherence of the present invention.

More specifically, the composition of Simizu US '140 contains (A) silanol-terminated polydiorganosiloxane and (B) substituted aminoxy group-containing organosilicon compound, and belongs to condensation reaction room-temperature curing type composition. Thus, the composition of Simizu US '140 is quite different from a hydrosilylation addition reaction curable composition comprising an alkenyl group-containing organopolysiloxane and an

organohydrogenpolysiloxane having SiH groups and being cured under heat, as similar to the compositions of Takuman EP '211 and the present invention.

Further, similar to Takuman EP '211, Simizu US '140 also fails to disclose or teach that the improved adherence can be attained by using aluminum hydroxide powder, while Simizu US '140 merely teaches that aluminum hydroxide powder can give the effect of a low modulus and a high elongation in addition to a self-extinguishing effect as the Examiner asserted.

Combination of the Cited References

As described above, none of Simizu US '140, Takuman EP '211 or the admitted prior art disclose or suggest the features of the present invention such as improved adherence using aluminum hydroxide powder.

Thus, the combination of the cited references does not give one skilled in the art any motivation to arrive at the present invention.

Accordingly, the present invention (independent claim 1 and dependent claims) is not obvious over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

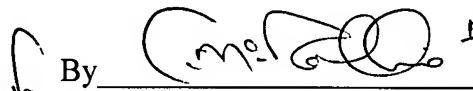
Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of pending claims is allowed and patentable under the provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gerald M. Murphy, Jr. (Reg. No. 28,977) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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